

Daily Eagle

M. M. MURDOCK, Editor.

FEARFUL SPREAD OF SUICIDAL MANIA.

The desire to kill one's self is one of the most remarkable and peculiar epidemics of the opening century. Night before last the Eagle's Associated Press report contained no less than ten suicides, and owing to the peculiar rules of that news gathering institution it does not report more than one out of every ten suicidal happenings in the United States. In Kansas during one day this week five suicides were reported in special dispatches, and it is reasonable to suppose that others were committed in remote places that were not reported.

The suicidal tendency is growing every week and becomes more unaccountable. The country is prosperous beyond compare, business men are making money almost everywhere, labor is employed at fair wages, and yet, with what are supposedly the most prolific causes of self-destruction removed, men and women are killing themselves. The fact should demand a governmental inquiry. There is something wrong.

One of the most interesting things about the present phase of the suicidal mania is that, apparently, one suicide suggests another. In Arkansas City there were three within a short time. In this city, last month, two acts of self-destruction were accomplished and two attempted within a week. It might startle some to know that more than twenty-five suicides have been attempted in Wichita since January 1, and not a valid excuse for either. Have people lost faith in a Supreme Being who frowns upon suicide or do they lack the courage to meet the small annoyances and embarrassments of life, or is there a suicide microbe in the air we breathe?

There have been suicides in all ages and in all countries, but until comparatively recently self-destruction was not common in America. One of the most singular things in the history of the crime is the number of great minds that have conceived it. Herbert Stimpson, that eccentric young man who committed suicide last year in this city, found delight in calling over the names of a distinguished galaxy of brilliant people who were possessed of the mania. Among them were Zeno, Cleanthes, Dionysus, Lucretius, Lucan, Fisher Romilly, Miller, Goethe, Kipling, Jules Verne, Tannabill, Kleist, Chatterton, Lord Clive, Creech, Blount, Hayden and David. Stimpson justified suicide with great enthusiasm on all occasions and finally accomplished it when he became the victim of comparatively trifling embarrassments.

Many distinguished persons contemplated suicide. Abraham Lincoln was accidentally prevented from taking his own life. Schiller used to say, "If I had my dear old father I would put an end to my miserable life." Parisee was saved from suicide by a friend. Lessman wrote a superbly humorous piece on suicide and then hanged himself. Every time George Sand saw a precipice, a body of water or a bottle of poison she desired for "eternal repose." Rossini, the great composer, was afflicted with a terrible desire to cut his throat. Voltaire sought to starve himself to death. Gray, who wrote the famous elegy, wanted to commit suicide and had to be watched. Chopin was anxious for death to come. Cavour desired to open his veins, but doubted the morality of suicide. He used to say, "While this doubt exists it is best for me to imitate Hamlet. I will not kill myself, but I shall pay earnestly for a quick consumption." Chateaubriand placed the muzzle of a gun in his mouth for the purpose of blowing his brains out, but the appearance of a passer-by suspended his resolution. J. S. Mill and Lord Coleridge contemplated suicide. And these are not all.

There have been many and peculiar reasons for suicide. Domentichino was induced to kill himself by the contempt of a rival; Spagnoleto by the abduction of his daughter; Kleist died in the presence of his mistress; roesini sought to take his own life because he had paid more for a house than it was worth; Chopin wanted to die to get away from the ghosts that he supposed were haunting him; Brutus fell upon his sword because he was defeated in battle; Mill seriously meditated self-destruction because he feared the exhaustion of musical combinations.

The modern causes of suicide are entirely different from the above; but it cannot be said that the prevailing causes of suicide today were known to cause self-destruction as far back as recorded history goes. Love, jealousy, disappointment in business, sickness, remorse and dishonor have caused suicides in every age, but in no more than in this. At the same time it can be said that men and women have been confronted with all these suicidal causes without entertaining for a moment a thought of self-destruction. It is clear, then, that what can be a cause for one person to kill himself is not a cause for another person to kill himself and that there is some physical condition which provokes the mania. George Sand thought it was excessive love, others think it is the wasting of nerve force, while a great many others look upon the direct and indirect influence of intoxicants with suspicion. At any rate the careful selection of a competent national or international commission, established for an inquiry into the matter, could hardly fail in accomplishing results that would more than justify the expenses incurred.

CONCERNING PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The great ecclesiastical body which is now in session at Philadelphia, the proceedings of which are fully outlined in the Eagle's dispatches, represents one of the strongest and most influential religious forces in the country. In point of numbers the Presbyterians are surpassed by but two, or perhaps three, other churches, while in the amount of property devoted to religious uses and the contributions for missionary and charitable purposes they stand in the front rank.

The General Assembly has no permanent place of meeting, but selects each year the locality for its annual session, and has in this way visited all parts of the country, from New England to California. Many former meetings have been held in Philadelphia, where the strength of Presbyterianism is greater than in any other city in the Union, and where the first organization of the church was effected in 1707. In the spring of that year seven ministers gathered in a small, plain meeting house standing in an unfashionable neighborhood not far from the Delaware river, and organized the Presbytery of Philadelphia. This was in later years divided into three Presbyteries, which together formed the Synod of Pennsylvania; and this again, by absorbing those of similar theological beliefs and expanding with the settlement of the country, finally grew into the General Assembly, which now, after nearly two centuries of expansion, represents more than a million communicant members of the Presbyterian church gathered in 7,500 congregations.

ministered to by 7,400 licensed and ordained clergymen. Besides these, there is a very large number of the baptized children who have not yet confirmed their membership in the church by a public profession of faith. The greater part of these are pupils in the Sunday schools, which report an attendance of more than 1,100,000.

The form of government of the Presbyterian church unites strength with flexibility to a degree that has won the admiration of many who entirely dissent from the theological opinions usually associated with the name. Its plan is that of a representative republic, and its analogies with our American political organization are many and important. As several townships together form a county, a number of counties form a state, and all the states combine in the nation, so a group of congregations make a presbytery, a group of presbyteries a synod, and all the synods are united under the control of the General Assembly, which is a congress embodying the highest powers of the entire system. The General Assembly is composed of representatives, both lay and clerical, annually elected by the presbyteries, and during their term of office they are called commissioners. They receive no compensation and exercise no authority except during the sessions of the General Assembly. The number of commissioners this year is 650, and they are from all parts of the United States and also from the mission fields such as those under the care of the Presbytery of Western Africa and the Presbytery of Canton, China. In noted for their influence, learning and eloquence.

Among the important questions which claim the attention of the present General Assembly probably the chief interest attaches to the so-called "creed revision." These words—commonly used in a discussion which has been going on for several years—though convenient, are misleading and have produced the impression that some change in the creed was proposed. This is wholly erroneous. Those ancient formularies the Nicene and Apostles' creeds are not questioned by any one; the changes proposed affect not those, but the Westminster Confession of Faith—an elaborate theological document promulgated in England two hundred and fifty years ago, and afterward adopted in America. Presbyterian ministers are expected to subscribe to this confession before they are ordained; but acceptance of its doctrines is not required of laymen who may be desirous of uniting with the church. The matter of revision is less radical in its tendencies than many have supposed; and whatever may be the decision of the General Assembly upon the dogmatic church's sacraments and worship will in no wise be affected.

HIGH CLASS MUSIC WON'T PAY.

A report from Chicago announces a campaign of music culture. A union of the leading music publishers of the United States is contemplated which will transact business under the name of the American Music Publishing Concern. The object of the company is to prevent the publication of inferior music, and any dealer who sells music that has not received the approval of the association will not be allowed to handle its productions. The concern will commence with a capital of between \$3,000,000 and \$5,000,000.

This combination differs from those heretofore formed in that it has not been organized with a view to making immense profits at the expense of small concerns. Instead of profiting by the union the American Music Publishing Concern will undoubtedly lose money. The fact is that classical music is not popular with the masses; they do not understand it and do not appreciate it. This is apparent from the enormous sale of what is commonly known as "rag time" music. Music dealers, like all other business men, have to keep what their patrons want. The majority want inferior music and the music dealers must supply the demand. "His being the case, it is difficult to see how a combination against inferior music can hurt them seriously, for they will still handle the music which the majority of their customers want, and it is safe to say that they will be able to obtain what they need in the line of classical music. To hard-headed, practical business men this latest combination seems an impracticable scheme. Its redeeming feature lies in the fact that the organization will be the loser. No one else will be materially affected in any way.

STRANGE GOLF STORY FROM INDIA.

Wichita is a golf town and a city noted for the strange stories that sometimes leave it, but there are other towns fully as famed for their golf and their stories. A correspondent of the London Globe writes: "Some years ago I was playing in a match in India, Bangalore vs. Madras, when a hawk suddenly swooped down on my ball and carried it off in its claws. I appealed to my adversary to allow me to drop another ball, but he was one of our canny brethren, and replied: 'Eh, no, man; lost ball, lost hole.' This did not admit of argument, and although I did not grin I bore it. Some weeks afterwards I went for a walk before breakfast, and, climbing a rocky eminence to see the view, I came across a hawk's nest, and by it a dead hawk, and in the nest—my golf ball. Both the hawk and the ball were quite warm. I sent the hawk to the curator of the museum and asked for a post-mortem. His verdict was 'a broken heart,' and on my telling him the story he had no doubt that the poor bird had expired in its vain efforts to hatch out my 'Silverton.'"

The awful charge is made against President McKinley that he once drank a glass of champagne with a naval officer. Dahi! The man who wouldn't crack a bottle with an American flag, especially since the Spanish war, would be entirely too good to be president. Americans have no patience with people who would attack their president on that score.

The Kansas man who digged hard all winter that he may have a safe place of observation while the festive cyclone toyed with his castle and the other apartments thereto belonging in the spring, is entitled to sympathy. There hasn't been enough wind during the cyclone season to blow the powder off a lady's cheek.

If there is any proof lacking concerning the unprecedented prosperity of the Arkansas valley, the circumstance of a Sumner county man giving up fifty dollars of his good money to the Pullman octopus, to take him back to his old Indiana home for a mess of squirrel supplies it.

The "high art" music teachers have given the public further provision to keep loose, shot-guns in tea houses. Now they hob up with a boycott against "ragtime" music, the only music that all the people can understand.

Grover Cleveland is still drawing dividends from that bond combination he went into with J. Pierpont Morgan six or seven years ago. His winning in the Northern Pacific deal amounts to about \$100,000.

In the variety of games which he can play Uncle Sam is a versatile old gentleman. The powers of Europe that threaten a combination against his commerce will find this out during the progress of the game.

It now appears that Little Whirlwind, the Montana Indian, was convicted of murder on perjured testimony, and the Indian Rights association is stirring up a breeze over it.

The Arkansas valley has no oil wells in sight, but it has wheat enough to keep the gasoline stove burning as long as Deacon or any other old place.

Some fine day the idea will spring in the gray matter of Mr. Thomas Lipton that a yacht that can beat the Americans must be made in America.

Kansas, after all, will be well represented at the Buffalo exposition. Fred Funston's sword and John R. Gentry will be there.

Wells, the novelist, displays so much interest in writing that he sometimes misses his meals. There are others.

The new style straw hat will cause an immense crop of freckles this year.

BUCK MCGINNIS' ILL LUCK.

Buck McGinnis, the tough stage hand, was in usually tranquil mood. He had fallen victim to the all pervading craze for speculation. He had seen ten hours' earnings at the regular union rate of sixty-two and a half cents per hour swelled up to less than four minutes of bucket shop experience. He had ventured at an unlucky period when the market sagged suddenly like a back drop that is pulled up to reveal the scene below. Nor was his irritation in any degree allayed, but rather intensified, by the fact that one brief, fleeting instant after the market sagged he had become a laughing stock, and the blackboard quotations indicated that values had rebounded with the resilience of a rubber ball.

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"You have but fallen victim to a disease widely prevalent and directly traceable to lack of moral sanitation," continued Mr. McGinnis, reflectively, as he bit of the end of a fragrant perfect and scratched a waxen taper on the cold match box with the ruby, diamond tipped cigarette holder.

"It is a disease which is epidemic rather than sporadic, and nothing but heroic measures will check its spread and restore healthy conditions. We are plagued by the meteoric success of the individual and blind to the disaster which befalls the many. The market broke, the clerk of yesterday's evening market today is bankrupt tomorrow. The dull-eyed Italian bootblack is suddenly missing from his accustomed stand, and a man discovered behind his own awft stood upon the Speedway."

"An even the chatterer's magpie of the chorus girl interrupted Buck McGinnis, who, with a sense of deep personal chagrin, "Why, you can't pick up a paper without seeing their half-tones, two columns wide, and read about how they've collected a billion an' commenced blowing themselves to private automobiles an' hundred thousand and dollar diamond necklaces. It's enough to make an honest but unfortunate member of the State Carpenters' Union ripe for any old thing from simple larceny to manslaughter."

"I should regard the stories of chorus girls' winnings in the light of fantastic fictions, to be taken with a liberal seasoning of salt," observed the astute Mr. McGinnis, sagaciously. "If a liberal hearted and philanthropic broker, who is unhappy in his home life, stakes a couple of generous twenties from his substantial roll as a friendly offering to some vivacious young stage acquaintance who has dispelled the ennui of an idle hour, she is prone to magnify her good fortune in the confidence of the dressing room and the press agent of the house does the rest."

"I should feel inclined to put down a small bet and concede reasonable odds that the hard working stage mothers and little sick sisters have not been substantially augmented during the present delirious speculative season which is still convulsing the community."

"The average southerner, confining herself to a simple breakfast regimen of coffee, rolls and cigarettes, with abrupt transitions to shellfish, strawberries and gaudy when invited to dine out, is still compelled to throw her arms upon the kind indulgence of the stout, sympathetic colored landlady, when the lingerie comes home."

"Maybe so, maybe not," assented Buck McGinnis, gloomily. "But somebody makes money. Some fellow's got over six dollars of my hard earnings, and I hope he'll choke. I'm the disappointed man in the ward, but it makes me hotter's an August sun when I think how I was bucketed. And I could just see myself coming away and mental down the highway of affluence like I was on roller skates. When I coughed up them six plunks I like to tore a lung out."

"I was not disappointed, of course," ventured Mr. McGinnis, soothingly, "but it was nevertheless a perfectly legitimate transaction. A man may not felicitously appropriate your watch or purse after assailing you with a section of lead pipe wound with bicycle tape, or the simpler old fashioned wooden stick, filled with cayenne building sand, happily now almost obsolete. The rights of person are inviolate and not to be lightly disregarded."

"But the law in its wisdom makes distinction between highway robbery and stock gambling. Morally it may be a distinction without a difference. To whittle down the market, to manipulate a favorite stock for the enrichment of the chosen few, all these things are regarded as not inconsistent with probity, honor, good-faith and respectability. Rather are they accepted as evidences of superior judgment and keen business acumen. It is an excellent condition of affairs that will govern so long as the financial will of the wise dances merrily through the monetary mazes of Wall Street, for the driving instinct is deeply implanted in every human breast."

"All the same," replied Buck McGinnis, sagaciously and quite innocently, "if I had the Napoleon of finance up an alley way call for a rubber tired ambulance with a jouncing suspension in special case mounted on the back step, and it would not be no case of alcoholism, neither."

"Are you financially embarrassed, Mr. McGinnis?" inquired Mr. J. McGinnis, who, with a sense of deep personal chagrin, "Why, no, I'm not. I'm down to three nickels, one of 'em phugged, an' a membership card to the Haymarket."

"If the market sagged to me that I would like to see a hole in a copper bottom."

"And in consequence of confidential information whispered to him by the gentleman who was the first to see the black bottom, Mr. McGinnis then decided that if he could not afford to open anywhere in the town he would put it off to the day for place in the third race tomorrow."

OUTLINES OF OKLAHOMA.

Ponca City is going in for paved streets instead of shoring an oil well. Oil was struck at El Reno again yesterday.

Jimmy Jacobs of the Shawnee Democrat has hitched his tow line to the David B. Hill balloon.

The Wichita Herald is on record as saying that the fruit crop will be an immense one this year.

Some men with more patriotism than wisdom will start another new daily paper at El Reno on July 4.

Kind is making a great preparations for her Masonic reception which is to be given next Wednesday night.

Clinton comes to the front with a cash bonus for the survey for the Cherryvale, Oklahoma and Texas railroad.

Oklahoma City is not the only city in Oklahoma after paved streets. Ponca City also wants in on the paving proposition.

Gasoline explosions are still on the schedule of the territory's accidents. John Jackaback of El Reno is the latest gasoline victim.

The Oklahoma commencement are now on, and the "sweet girl graduates" get long complimentary notices in the various papers.

John Miller and Clarence Gross of Newkirk are after the white championship of the territory. They are out in a challenge in the Democrat.

Spl Dizon's little boy prayed for rain at Elmd Wednesday night and it came. Member of the Way believes that the prayer fetched the rain.

Kind keeps pulling hard for the towing of the Oklahoma capital in that city. And yet Kind is not the only town desirous of it in the country by a rival road.

Eastern buyers are invading the territory in search of good draft horses. The Oklahoma farmer usually has a few to sell for a handsome price.

The Perkins Journal has had telegraphic connection with William The Silent, and gives it out that E. F. Korns will be Amos Ewing's successor.

The territorial papers are still pushing Ed Korns for coal pit inspector under the Jenkins administration. Amos Ewing, however, still holds the fort.

Two million bushels of wheat in Garfield county is as good as harvested, delivered and the money in the pockets of the farmers since that big rain.

Granite is now telling about having water with an iron seam on its surface. It is a peculiar condition of affairs when Granite gets lost in an oil excitement.

Bill Cross will occupy a front seat in the meeting of the Democrats at Oklahoma City in June. Bill is still having dreams about the delegateship nomination.

Elmer Luke who was shot at Oklahoma City a day or two ago by a rival real estate dealer cannot recover. His doctor advised that his anti mortem statement be taken.

The sharp bribery case at Perry has brought a number of eastern people to Oklahoma as witnesses. As a matter of course they are all surprised at the growth of the territory.

Amos Ewing started the ball rolling, but apparently Barnes' appointees have not the nerve to follow his course. Governor Jenkins will probably soon take a role in the territory appointment drama.

A helpful Oklahoma youth who happened to be tarrying in Winfield a few nights ago sauntered into the opera house to pass away the time and seeing a box in the half of a girl in front of him he proceeded to yank it off without first begging her pardon. She screamed and the young man managed to find the exit before the girl's papa could reach him. And still they say there are no flies on the Winfield girls.

ALONG THE KANSAS NILE.

A ban has been placed on billiard tables at Atwood.

A Caldwell man has invented a green house killer.

It is the Sun that is clamoring for electric light at Parsons.

Another big flow of natural gas has been struck at Cherryvale.

Bill Sapp is furnishing reminiscences of the early days to the Galena News.

Judge Henry C. Sines will deliver the Memorial day address at Wellington.

Archibald Kerr, one of the leading stock men of Greenwood county is dead.

John Jacoby of Meade is insane from an injury received in the war thirty-eight years ago.

The Preston Plumber is urging the necessity of a hitching post in front of the opera house.

The Loose Standard man has added real estate dealing to his other fortifications against the wolf.

The Plumber announces that music teaching at Preston has ceased because the teacher has got his wife crossed.

Bluff City seems to have a visit from "The General." It will have a public concert every Saturday during the summer.

The State Temperance union at its meeting yesterday at Topeka refused to endorse the methods of Mrs. Arrie Nation.

Annie Digger says that Gertrude Atherton's book, Senator North, is vicious and has fired them out of the state library.

After thirty minutes deliberation a Medicine Lodge jury found Professor Toulon guilty of criminal assault upon one of his pupils.

Joe Richmond has sheltered over 10,000 bushels of corn cribbed in Harper county five years ago and save holding it was a good investment.

Of course there is a Kansas connection to it, John Emmelhuth, who is leading the right against governors, Dole in Hawaii formerly lived at Atchison.

A. J. Athay while riding home from Caldwell to Hott City Sunday ran into a lightning storm and had his horses killed. He was never touched.

Assuming that the Choctaw road wants scenery as well as business the Medicine Lodge people are figuring that the Choctaw road will build to the city.

Simultaneous with the announcement that J. G. Johnson is about to return from Chicago comes the news that Peabody will have a storm laundry.

That W-K-W man who has made a record in climbing flag poles is about the kind of a chap that will be needed in the Arkansas valley for corn hooking next fall.

The first heavenly proceedings under the new law were conducted at Wellington Thursday. In the case of M. A. Daniels two physicians and no jury conducted the case.

Henry Lowery of Oxford who killed his baby because it had red hair has been charged with murder and will probably go to the penitentiary until his own raven locks are white.

A Santa Fe train was running so fast last night one man lost track that when it encountered a streak of lightning it showed it clear of the right away. The Jacksonville editor saw it done.

Another telegram for Mrs. Kallen. The Democratic editors who met at Atchison recently went in a body to a local assembly and drank bitters until each individual looked like an old man.

Lawrence people don't know what a good thing they have in the ruins of the old days. Only forty persons attended an entertainment to raise funds for the preservation of a historic windmill.

A farmer down at Coates went to the blacksmith shop Sunday morning thinking it was Monday and when he found out the mistake he whipped his horse all the way home to make up for lost time. Thus it is that the dumb brute sometimes suffers for the fool mistakes of his master.

Atherton General Gohard is in conflict with Nech Webster. He denies that the word "satire" means cursing, however, both sides and claims that Webster holds that it includes being, abuse, insult, scorn, and such like words.

That family, it must be the first time in Kansas that Nech Webster was appointed.

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Today, Commencing 9 a. m.

Two hundred Hats and Caps, made of silk mull, liberty silks, dainty mulls and swisses. Most of them white, though every color is here. Hats worth \$1.35 to \$2.00 each. See window display and come this morning at 9 o'clock.

Choice, 89 Cents Each

In Our Mammoth Millinery Department...

Daisy Wreath Special

Two hundred Daisy Wreaths, worth at regular price 25c. Just the thing for Children's Hats. Colors are pink, blue, red, white and yellow. Today, 5c.

150 Children's Hats...

Hats worth two, three and four times the price we ask today. Choice, 9c.

Children's Mexican Hats...

Another hundred of these tall crown, wide rim Mexican Hats; always sell at 50c. Today, 19c.

Ladies' Sailors, 25c

Two hundred Ladies' White Satin Sailors, with ribbon bands, go on sale today at 25c.

Ladies' Trimmed Hats...

One lot of Stylish Trimmed Hats. Every one of this season's shape. Hats worth up to \$3.50 each. Choice today, \$1.23.

Street Hats...

Take your choice today of any Ready-to-Wear Street Hat in the house, regardless of former price, whether \$1.50, \$2.50, \$3 or \$4, at the one price, 98c.

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